Wound Inspection among Lathe Workers.—Shie (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, lxix, 1927–1930) states that in a large manufacturing plant the vast majority of cases of wound infections and furunculosis were found to be localized among lathe workers in the machine shops. The peculiar features of lathe work are the use of cutting mixture and oil, and the manner in which these circulate and are used repeatedly, thus making them extremely liable to contamination. The contamination rendered them open to suspicion as factors in the causation of the wound infection and furunculosis. These suspicions were borne out by bacteriological investigation and animal inoculation, which showed the causative factor to be pyogenic organisms which were present in vast numbers in the cutting mixture and less numerous in the oil. Marked results were obtained. Abundant portals of entry for these organisms were found on the arms of workingmen in innumerable small cuts and punctures made by flying chips of steel from the lathes. The methods of prophylaxis possible are by heat, by chemical disinfection and by a combination of the two. Various chemical disinfectants were tried, and the cresol group was found to be the most effective and the least expensive. By use of chemical disinfection (cresols) wound infections have been reduced from 5 per cent. to less than 0.5 per cent. in the plant under consideration, and furunculosis has almost disappeared.

An Anatomical Study of Senescence in Dogs, with Special Reference to the Relation of Cellular Changes of Age to Tumors.—Goodpasture (*Jour. Med. Research*, May, 1918, pp. 127–186) states that senescence in dogs is accompanied by multiple degenerative changes in many organs and tissues, and associated with these changes are multiple benign and malignant tumors, which seem to result directly from these degenerative changes. With age there is a progressive differentiation which eventually injures the cells of the body. Many of these cells die, others become de-differentiated in varying degrees. These de-differentiated cells possess the power to grow, but their capacity to function may be diminished or lost. From these de-differentiated cells, metaplasia and benign and malignant tumors arise.

Persistence of Immunity following Toxin-antitoxin Injections.—Park (*Proc. Soc. for Exp. Biol. and Med.*, April 8, 1918), during the past years, has immunized a series of guinea-pigs and a series of horses and a series of children, with diphtheria toxin-antitoxin mixtures. The duration of the immunity presents certain points of great interest. He states that, so far as his observations go, guinea-pigs are never naturally immune; horses in the very great majority of cases are immune; adults and infants under six months are immune to 80 per cent., while very young children are non-immune to about 60 per cent. In the guinea-pig, active immunity lasts for about nine months; in horses there is increased immunity, due to the injections, which last from nine to twelve months, at which time the horses return to their original amounts of natural antitoxic immunity. In testing human beings from month to month it was a matter of great interest to find whether the infants and children who become immune, due to the injections, would, like the guinea-pigs, lose their immunity in about nine months or whether the active immunity would be replaced by natural immunity just as in the majority of infants the stage of lack of immunity is followed by antitoxic immunity. He found that in infants two years after successful immunization the great majority have remained immune, not over 6 per cent. losing their immunity. Park states that we have a right therefore to hope that the stimulated immunity has been replaced in the very great majority by a natural immunity, and that this will hold for life. The facts that the protection lasts and that the injections are harmless make the active immunization of infants appear to be a practical measure of eliminating diphtheria.

The Spirochetal Flora of the Normal Male Genitalia.—NOGUCHI (*Jour. Exp. Med.*, June 1, 1918, No. 6, xxvii), states that the varieties of spirochetes enumerated and photomicrographed from the male smegma flora represent practically every form hitherto described by Nankivell and Sundell and by Patterson in the specimens of urine from trench fever cases. The urethral flora as studied by Stoddard seem to contain more varieties, but except those of his more detailed morphological descriptions, every form observed by him is among those found in the smegma. Stoddard saw certain forms with hooked ends suggestive of the Leptospira icterohemorrhagiæ of infectious jaundice, but the resemblance ends with this one feature, and differentiation should always be possible under the dark-field microscope, by means of which spirals the leptospira reveals its highly characteristic minute elementary presenting the appearance of a chain of dots. Of all the spirochetes none has so closely set spirals as the jaundice leptospira, the distance between two spirals being only 0.5 micron. Various methods, including Fontana's, Benians', the mordant gentian violet stain or Burri's India-ink method, are inadequate to differentiate the leptospira from other spirochetes. Why a positive spirochete finding with the films from the urethra and in the specimens of urine was not obtained is difficult to explain, except on the grounds of the paucity of specimens examined. At all events the recent negative results reported by Fiessinger with French soldiers and invalids after cleansing of the urethra and glans seem to be in harmony with Noguchi's results. In conclusion it may be stated that Spironema refringens, Treponema calligyrum and Treponema minutum represent practically all the spirochetal forms observed in the male smegma flora. A leptospira has never been conclusively shown to be present in the specimens of normal urine or smegma. For the satisfactory microscopic demonstration of a leptospira a dark-field illuminator is indispensable.

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